

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:
a base member having a base plate with a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions; and
a rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base plate to extend inwardly toward said center longitudinal axis into a snowboard boot receiving area above said base plate, said rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member, said first latch member being pivotally supported about a first pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis to selectively engage a heel portion of the snowboard boot,
said first latch member being arranged to move downwardly toward said base member and laterally outwardly away from said center longitudinal axis upon application of a force on said first latch member in a direction substantially towards said base member by the snowboard boot, and to move upwardly away from said base member and laterally inwardly upon removal of said force.

2. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:
a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;
a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member, said first latch member being pivotally supported about a first pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis, said first latch member being configured to engage a first rear catch portion of a snowboard boot; and
a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member, said second latch member being pivotally supported

about a second pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis, said second latch member being configured to engage a second rear catch portion of the snowboard boot,

said first and second latch members being arranged to move downwardly toward said base member and laterally outwardly away from relative to each other and away from said longitudinal axis upon application of a force on said first and second latch members in the direction substantially towards said base member.

3. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, further comprising

a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position.

4. (Previously Amended) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, wherein

said first and second latch members are arranged to move laterally apart relative to each other from first and second initial positions to first and second guide positions upon application of said force on said first and second latch members in said direction substantially towards said base member.

5. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding according to claim 4, wherein

said first latch member is arranged to move from said first guide position to a first locking position to selectively hold the a first rear catch portion of the a snowboard boot; and

said second latch member is arranged to move from said second guide position to a second locking position to selectively hold the a second rear catch portion of the snowboard boot.

6. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, wherein
said first and second latch members are normally urged to first and second initial positions by first and second biasing members, respectively.

7. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, wherein said first and second latch members are first and second pawls that are normally urged by first and second biasing members from first and second guide positions to first and second locking positions, respectively, said first pawl includes a first locking surface and a first guide surface, said second pawl includes a second locking surface and a second guide surface.

8. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 7, wherein said first pawl is pivotally supported about said first pivot axis, and said second pawl is pivotally supported about said second pivot axis.

9. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, wherein said base member includes a mounting portion and a pair of side attachment portions extending perpendicularly from said mounting portion, said side attachment portions having said first and second latch members coupled thereto, respectively.

10. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 9, wherein said base member further includes a highback support extending upwardly relative to said rear portion of said base member.

11. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding comprising:
a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;

a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position, said front binding member including a connecting portion and a binding flange that is being arranged to move in a forward and downward direction relative to said base member when moving from said latched position to said release position relative to said longitudinal axis, said connecting portion extending from a forward end of said binding flange in said latched position such that said connecting portion is configured to limit forward movement of a front catch of a snowboard boot along said longitudinal axis in said latched position; and

a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative

to said base member, said first latch member being pivotally supported about a first pivot axis substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis,

said first latch member being arranged to move laterally upon application of a force in a direction substantially towards said base member.

12. (Previously Amended) A snowboard binding according to claim 11, wherein

said front binding member includes a front pawl urged in a rear direction to said latched position by a front biasing member that applies an urging force on said front pawl, and a release lever coupled to said front pawl to move said front pawl from said latched position to said release position upon application of a force on said release lever that is greater than said urging force of said front biasing member.

13. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 11, wherein said front binding member is longitudinally adjustable relative to said front portion of said base member such that said front binding member can be selectively coupled at different longitudinal positions relative to said base member.

14. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 13, wherein said rear binding member is longitudinally adjustable relative to said rear portion of said base member such that said rear binding member can be selectively coupled at different longitudinal positions relative to said base member.

15. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 1, wherein said rear binding member is longitudinally adjustable relative to said rear portion of said base member such that said rear binding member can be selectively coupled at different longitudinal positions relative to said base member.

16. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 2, wherein said rear portion of said base member includes a base plate with said first and second rear binding members mounted on support members that are slanted upwardly and outwardly relative to said base plate.

17. (Original) A snowboard binding according to claim 16, wherein said support members are part of a heel cup with a highback support mounted thereto.

18. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding system, comprising:
a snowboard boot having a sole portion, a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion, a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion; and
a snowboard binding configured to be releasably ~~releasable~~ coupled to said snowboard boot, said snowboard binding including

a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;

a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position to selectively hold said front catch portion;

a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said first rear catch portion of said snowboard boot; and

a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said second rear catch portion of said snowboard boot,

said first and second latch members being arranged to move downwardly toward said base member and laterally away from ~~apart relative to~~ each other and away from said longitudinal axis upon application of a force on said first and second latch members in a direction substantially towards said base member by said snowboard boot.

19. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 18, wherein said first and second latch members are normally urged to first and second initial positions by first and second biasing members, respectively.

20. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 19, wherein said first latch member is pivotally supported about a first pivot axis, and said second latch member is pivotally supported about a second pivot axis.

21. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 20, wherein said first and second pivot axes are arranged substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said base member.

22. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 21, wherein said first and second latch members have first and second elongated locking surfaces, respectively, that are arranged substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said base member.

23. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 21, wherein said first and second latch members have first and second elongated locking surfaces, respectively, that diverge relative to said longitudinal axis of said base member as said first and second elongated locking surfaces extend from said rear portion of said base member towards said front portion of said base member.

24. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 20, wherein said first and second pivot axes diverge relative to said longitudinal axis of said base member as said first and second pivot axes extend from said rear portion of said base member towards said front portion of said base member.

25. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 24, wherein said first and second latch members have first and second elongated locking surfaces, respectively, that are arranged substantially parallel to said first and second pivot axes, respectively, such that said first and second elongated locking surfaces diverge relative to said longitudinal axis of said base member as said first and second elongated locking surfaces extend from said rear portion of said base member towards said front portion of said base member.

26. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 18, wherein said first and second latch members are first and second pawls that are normally urged by first and second biasing members from first and second guide positions to first and second locking positions, respectively, said first pawl includes a first locking surface and a first guide surface, said second pawl includes a second locking surface and a second guide surface.

27. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 26, wherein said first pawl is pivotally supported about a first pivot axis, and said second pawl is pivotally supported about a second pivot axis.

28. (Previously Amended) A snowboard binding system according to claim 27, wherein said base member includes a mounting portion and a pair of side attachment portions extending perpendicularly from said mounting portion, said side attachment portions having said first and second latch members coupled thereto, respectively.

29. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 28, wherein said base member further includes a highback support extending upwardly relative to said rear portion of said base member.

30. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 29, wherein said first and second pivot axes are arranged substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said base plate.

31. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 30, wherein said front binding member includes a front pawl urged to said latched position by a front biasing member that applies an urging force on said front pawl, and a release lever coupled to said front pawl to move said front pawl from said latched position to said release position upon application of a force on said release lever that is greater said urging force of said front biasing member.

32. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 18, wherein said first latch member is arranged to hold said first rear catch portion at a plurality of different heights relative to said base member; and
said second latch member is arranged to hold said second rear catch portion at a plurality of different heights relative to said base member.

33. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 32, wherein said first rear catch portion includes a plurality of first notches; and
said second rear catch portion includes a plurality of second notches.

34. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 33, wherein said first notches are located at a first lateral side of said snowboard boot; and
said second notches are located at a second lateral side of said snowboard boot such that said second notches face in a substantially opposite direction from said first notches.

35. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 34, wherein said first notches are elongated in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said base member; and
said second notches are elongated in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said base member.

36. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 18, wherein said front binding member is longitudinally adjustable relative to said front portion of said base member such that said front binding member can be selectively coupled at different longitudinal positions relative to said base member.

37. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding system according to claim 36, wherein
said first and second rear binding members are ~~member~~ is longitudinally adjustable relative to said rear portion of said base member such that said first and second rear binding members ~~member~~ can be selectively coupled at different longitudinal positions relative to said base member.

38. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding system according to claim 18, wherein

said first and second rear binding members are member is longitudinally adjustable relative to said rear portion of said base member such that said first and second rear binding members member can be selectively coupled at different longitudinal positions relative to said base member.

39. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 18, wherein said rear portion of said base member includes a base plate with said first and second rear binding members mounted on support members that are slanted upwardly and outwardly relative to said base plate.

40. (Original) A snowboard binding system according to claim 39, wherein said support members are part of a heel cup with a highback support mounted thereto.

41. (Currently Amended) A snowboard boot, comprising:
an upper portion; and
a sole portion coupled to said upper portion, said sole portion having a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion,

said first rear catch portion including at least one longitudinally extending first notch ~~with a first open rear end~~ and said second rear catch portion including at least one longitudinally extending second notch ~~with a second open rear end~~,

~~said first open rear end having a height and a depth substantially equal to a height and depth of said first notch~~ being open in a rearward direction such that said first notch is viewable in a longitudinal direction from behind said first rear catch portion and such that a first latch of a snowboard binding can slide longitudinally rearwardly within said first notch out of engagement with said first notch when said snowboard boot is coupled to the snowboard binding and moved longitudinally forward relative thereto, and said second open rear end having a height and a depth substantially equal to a height and depth of said second notch being open in a rearward direction such that said second notch is viewable in a longitudinal direction from behind said second rear catch portion and such that a second latch

of the snowboard binding can slide longitudinally rearwardly within said second notch out of engagement with said second notch when said snowboard boot is coupled to the snowboard binding and moved longitudinally forward relative thereto.

42. (Original) A snowboard boot according to claim 41, wherein said first rear catch portion includes a plurality of first notches; and said second rear catch portion includes a plurality of second notches.

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43. (Currently Amended) A snowboard boot according to claim 42, wherein said first notches are elongated in a direction substantially parallel to a said longitudinal axis of said sole portion ~~base member~~; and said second notches are elongated in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said sole portion ~~base member~~.

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44. (Original) A snowboard boot according to claim 42, wherein said first notches are substantially V-shaped; and said second notches are substantially V-shaped.

45. (Original) A snowboard boot according to claim 42, wherein each of said first notches has a first abutment surface angled relative to a bottom surface of said sole portion; and each of said second notches has a second abutment surface angled relative to said bottom surface of said sole portion.

46. (Original) A snowboard boot according to claim 41, wherein said first and second rear catch portions are integrally formed with said sole portion as a one-piece, unitary member.

47. (Original) A snowboard boot according to claim 41, wherein said sole portion includes a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion.

48. (Original) A snowboard boot according to claim 47, wherein said front catch portion is a U-shaped member with a bight portion and a pair of leg portions coupled to said sole portion.

49. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding system, comprising:
a snowboard boot having a sole portion, a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion, a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion, said first rear catch portion including a pair of substantially parallel first notches located at different heights relative to each other and said second rear catch portion including a pair of substantially parallel second notches located at different heights relative to each other; and

a snowboard binding configured to be releasably ~~releasable~~ coupled to said snowboard boot, said snowboard binding including

a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;

a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position to selectively hold said front catch portion;

a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively engage said first rear catch ~~one of said first notches~~ of said snowboard boot; and

a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively engage said second rear catch ~~one of said second notches~~ of said snowboard boot,

said first and second latch members being arranged to initially move laterally apart relative to each other to guide positions upon application of a force on ~~said first and second latch members~~ in a direction substantially towards said base member by said snowboard boot,

said first and second latch members being further arranged to subsequently move laterally towards each other to locked positions upon removal of said force such that said first and second latch members engage one of said first notches and one of said second notches, respectively, when in said locked positions, said first latch being engagable within each of said first notches and said second latch being engagable within each of said second notches to selectively couple said snowboard boot to said snowboard binding at ~~one~~ of two predetermined heights relative to said snowboard binding. } no

50. (Currently Amended) A snowboard binding system, comprising:
a snowboard boot having a sole portion, a front catch portion located at a front part of said sole portion, a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion; and
a snowboard binding configured to be releasably ~~releasable~~ coupled to said snowboard boot, said snowboard binding including

- a base member having a front portion, a rear portion and a longitudinal axis extending between said front and rear portions;
- a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position to selectively hold said front catch portion to said snowboard binding when said front binding member is in said latched position;
- a first rear binding member coupled to a first lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said first rear binding member including a first latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said first rear catch portion of said snowboard boot; and
- a second rear binding member coupled to a second lateral side of said rear portion of said base member, said second rear binding member including a second latch member movable relative to said base member to selectively hold said second rear catch portion of said snowboard boot,

said first and second latch members being arranged to move laterally apart relative to each other upon application of a force in a direction substantially towards said base member by said snowboard boot, ✓

said first and second latch members and said first and second rear catches being configured to allow forward longitudinal movement of said snowboard boot relative to said first and second latch members,
said front binding member and said front catch being configured to limit longitudinal movement of said front catch in a forward direction along said longitudinal axis when said front binding member is in said latched position holding said front catch.

51. (Currently Amended) A snowboard boot, comprising:
an upper portion; and
a sole portion coupled to said upper portion, said sole portion having a first rear catch portion located at a first lateral side of said sole portion and a second rear catch portion located at a second lateral side of said sole portion,
said first rear catch portion including a pair of longitudinally extending substantially parallel first notches and said second rear catch portion including a pair of longitudinally extending substantially parallel second notches,
said first notches being arranged at different vertical heights and being substantially at least partially aligned with each other as viewed in a vertical direction such that each of said first notches is selectively engagable with a first latch of a snowboard binding, and said second notches being arranged at different vertical heights and being substantially at least partially aligned with each other as viewed in said vertical direction such that each of said second notches is selectively engagable with a second latch of the snowboard binding.

52. (Previously Added) A snowboard binding according to claim 1, further comprising
a front binding member movably coupled to said front portion of said base member between a release position and a latched position.

53. (Previously Added) A snowboard binding according to claim 11,
wherein
said first latch member is arranged to move downwardly toward said base member

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and laterally outwardly upon application of said force on said first latch member in said direction substantially towards said base member.
